

Perfin Collectors – in 1911

Bob Szymanski

At the Manchester Perfin Convention, I received this card from Arnold Selengut, one of our members, with the sole stipulation that I write it up for the Perfins Bulletin. I do think that most members will find it rather interesting as Arnold did.

Certainly the address side postmarked July 3, 1911 in an ordinary one cent McKinley postcard has no immediate hint to anyone collecting perfins. I do not know what connection Mr. E.G. Ward of 617 Armory St. in Springfield, Mass had with perfins BUT...

Please read the reverse of the postcard.

"July 1, 1911, Mr. Ward I understand you have the following designs of US (?) Perfs. FMC GB D-W HOLT L(M/Co) TGC/&Co MJB/&Co. Can you loan me these stamps for black prints of special checklist I am getting up. I will return them promptly uninjured. C.V. Blackburn 77 Central St. Stoneham, Mass."

Here we have not one but two perfin collectors in 1911! I know that mention of the collecting of perfins must predate the founding of the Perfins Club in 1943 but this card posted in 1911 is only three years after the authorization of perfins in the US.

Can any members shed light on either or both of the two collectors mentioned? And

does anyone else have early proof of perfin collecting predating the founding of our Club?

Please let me hear from you or forward any information that you might have to the Bulletin editor.

